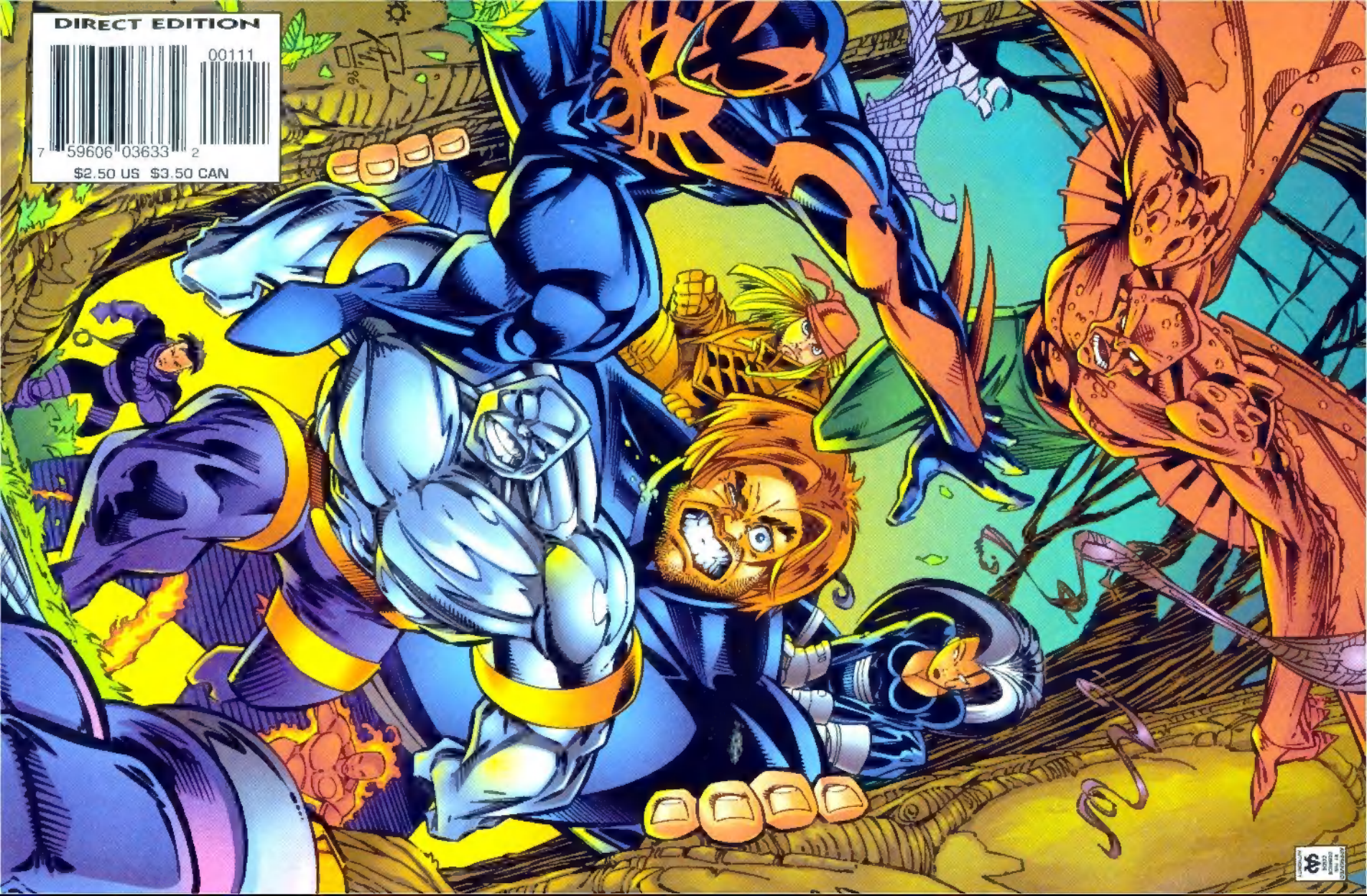
MARVEL COMICS
SEPT. '96 1
2099
WORLD OF TOMORROW
1ST BLOCKBUSTER ISSUE!
THE FUTURE OF THE MARVEL SUPER HEROES BEGINS HERE!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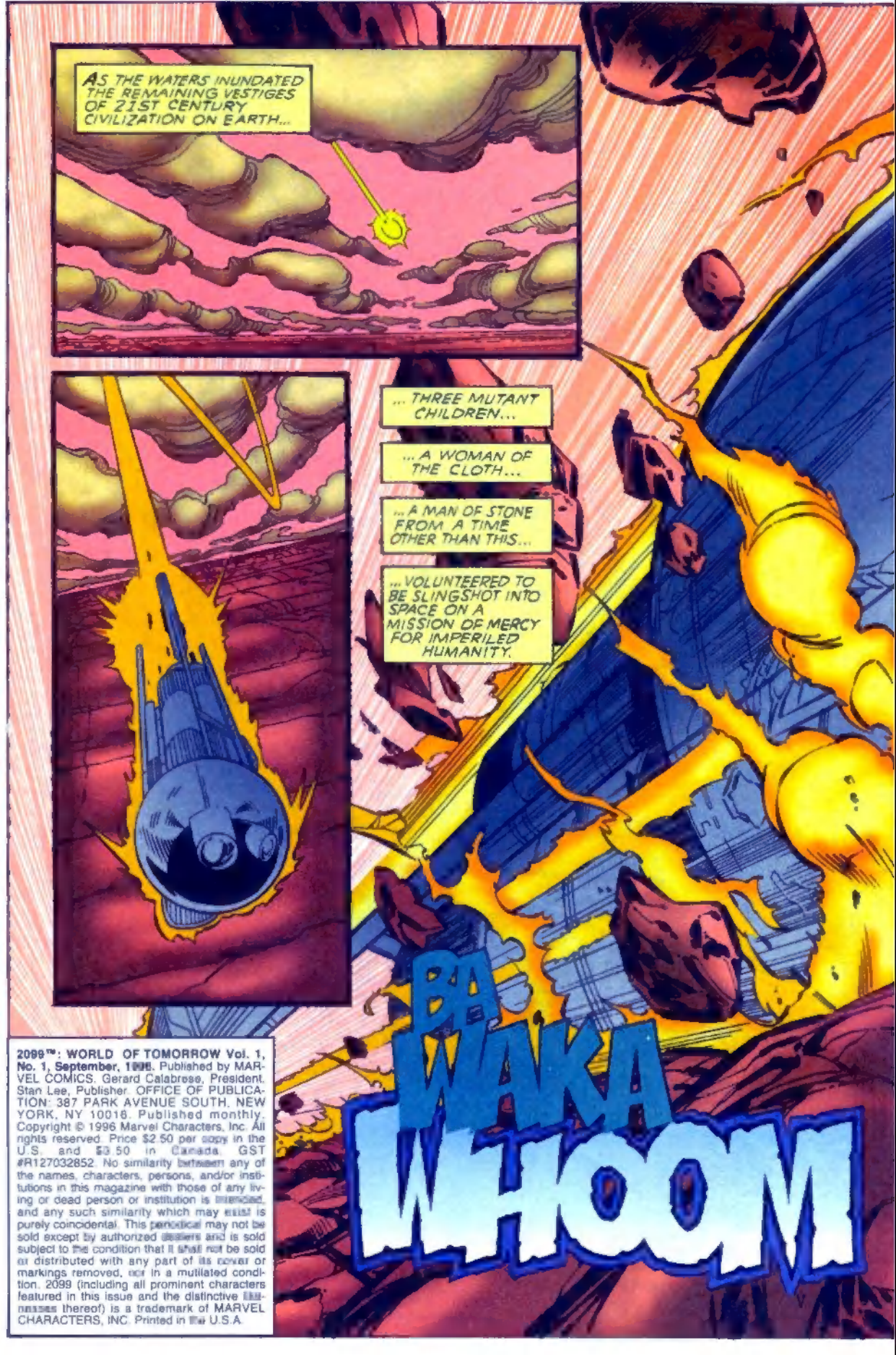
SPACE.
MAYDAY! MAYDAY!
ATTENTION, ARES COLONY--
THIS IS BENJAMIN J. GRIMM OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR CALLIN' ANYONE WHO CAN HEAR ME!
I GOT ME A PRIEST AND THREE KIDS IN STASIS ON THIS CRATE--
--AND T'ANKS TO A WHOLE MESS O' COSMIC RAYS WREAKIN' HAVOC WITH OUR GUIDANCE SYSTEMS--
--WE'RE COMIN' IN F'R A LANDIN' LIKE A BAT OUTTA HELL!
C'MON, BENJY--KEEP IT TOGETHER!
NOT ONLY ARE THESE KIDS COUNTIN' ON YA TA TOUCH 'EM DOWN SAFE--
--BUT THE REST OF HUMANITY IS WAITIN T'SEE IF PICKIN' UP STICKS FROM EARTH--
--AND SETTIN' DOWN ON MARS--
--AIN'T SUCH A BAD IDEA.
Uhhhnnn! ARMS'RE GETTIN' TO HEAVY--CAN'T MOVE!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
I THINK I'M GONNA PUKE!


AS THE WATERS INUNDATED THE REMAINING VESTIGES OF 21ST CENTURY CIVILIZATION ON EARTH...
...THREE MUTANT CHILDREN...
...A WOMAN OF THE CLOTH...
...A MAN OF STONE FROM A TIME OTHER THAN THIS...
...VOLUNTEERED TO BE SLINGSHOT INTO SPACE ON A MISSION OF MERCY FOR IMPERILED HUMANITY.
BA WAKA WHOOM

2099™: WORLD OF TOMORROW Vol. 1, No. 1, September, 1996. Published by MARVEL COMICS. Gerard Calabrese, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. Published monthly.
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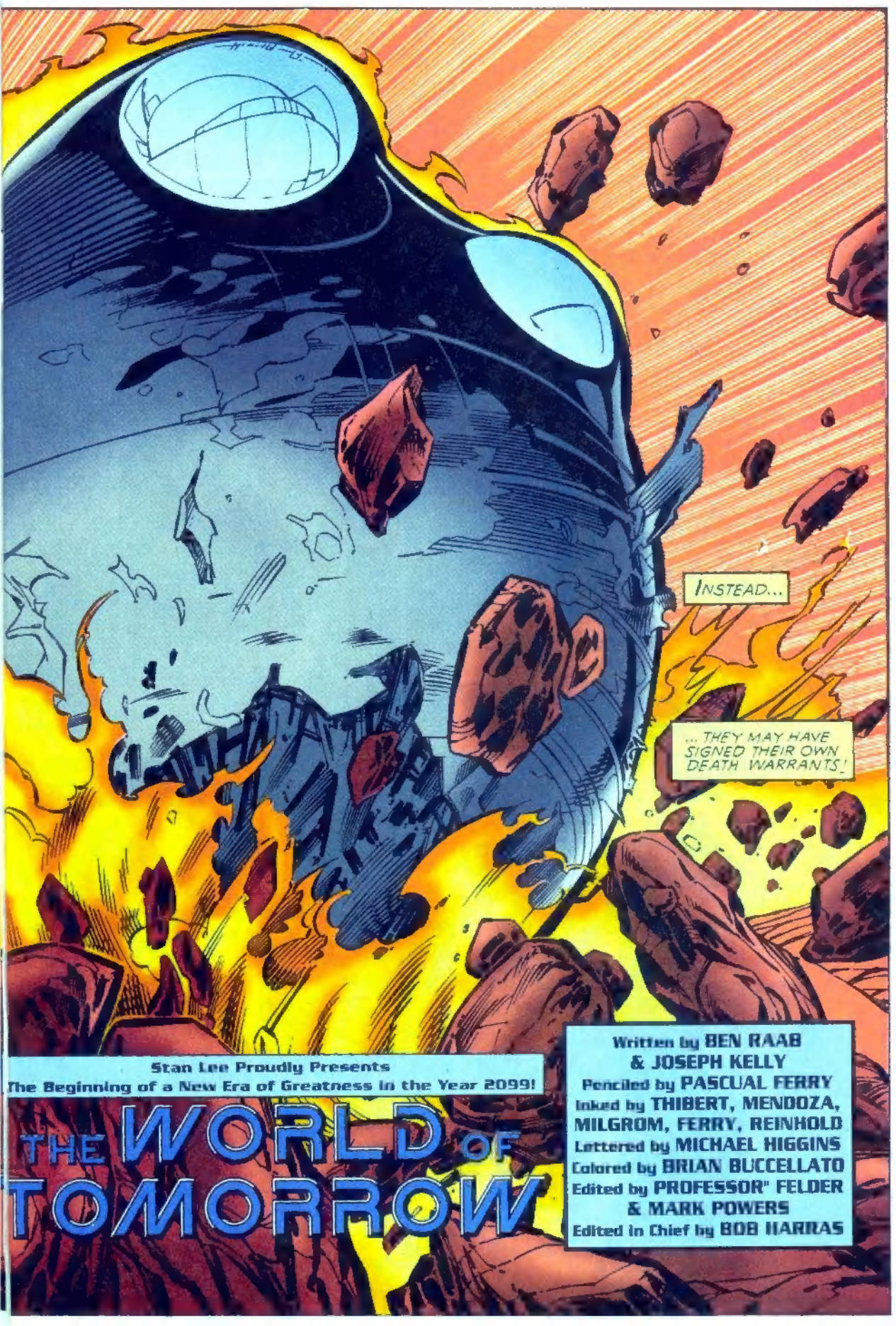

Stan Lee Proudly Presents
The Beginning of a New Era of Greatness in the Year 2099!

THE WORLD OF TOMORROW

Written by BEN RAAB & JOSEPH KELLY
Penciled by PASCUAL FERRY
Inked by THIBERT, MENDOZA, MILGROM, FERRY, REINHOLD
Lettered by MICHAEL HIGGINS
Colored by BRIAN BUCCELLATO
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INSTEAD...

... THEY MAY HAVE SIGNED THEIR OWN DEATH WARRANTS!

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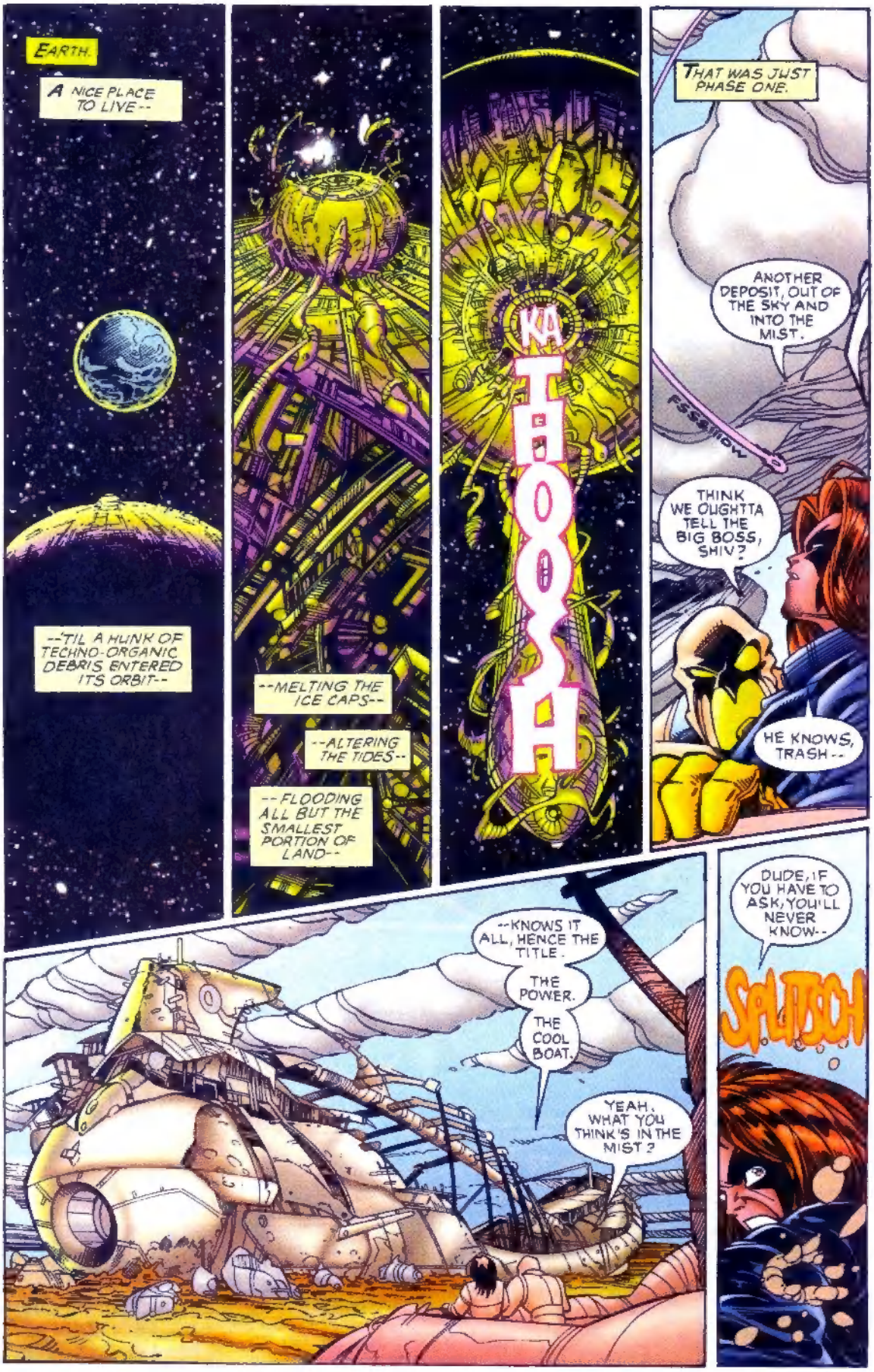
AND AS THE DOWNED SPACECRAFT GRINDS TO A HALT ON THE RUDDY MARTIAN SOIL...
...ITS TUMULTUOUS LANDING DOES NOT GO UNNOTICED.
WATCHING...
WAITING...
BUT WHEN NONE MANIFEST TO GIVE HIM PAUSE...
...THE OBSERVER DEFTLY TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE SHIP'S BREACHED HULL TO GAIN INGRESS.
INSIDE, THE FOUR BODIES, COCOONED IN LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS, FAIL TO REACT TO THE CREATURE'S EXAMINATION.
AND AS THE TIME FOR WATCHING AND WAITING ENDS...
...IT IS CLEAR THAT OBSERVATION IS NOT THIS INTRUDER'S SOLE INTENT.


EARTH.
A NICE PLACE TO LIVE--
--'TIL A HUNK OF TECHNO-ORGANIC DEBRIS ENTERED ITS ORBIT--
--MELTING THE ICE CAPS--
--ALTERING THE TIDES--
--FLOODING ALL BUT THE SMALLEST PORTION OF LAND--
KA
THOOM
THAT WAS JUST PHASE ONE.
ANOTHER DEPOSIT, OUT OF THE SKY AND INTO THE MIST.
PSSSHOW
THINK WE OUGHTTA TELL THE BIG BOSS, SHIV?
HE KNOWS, TRASH--
--KNOWS IT ALL, HENCE THE TITLE.
THE POWER.
THE COOL BOAT.
YEAH, WHAT YOU THINK'S IN THE MIST?
DUDE, IF YOU HAVE TO ASK, YOU'LL NEVER KNOW--
SPLITSCH

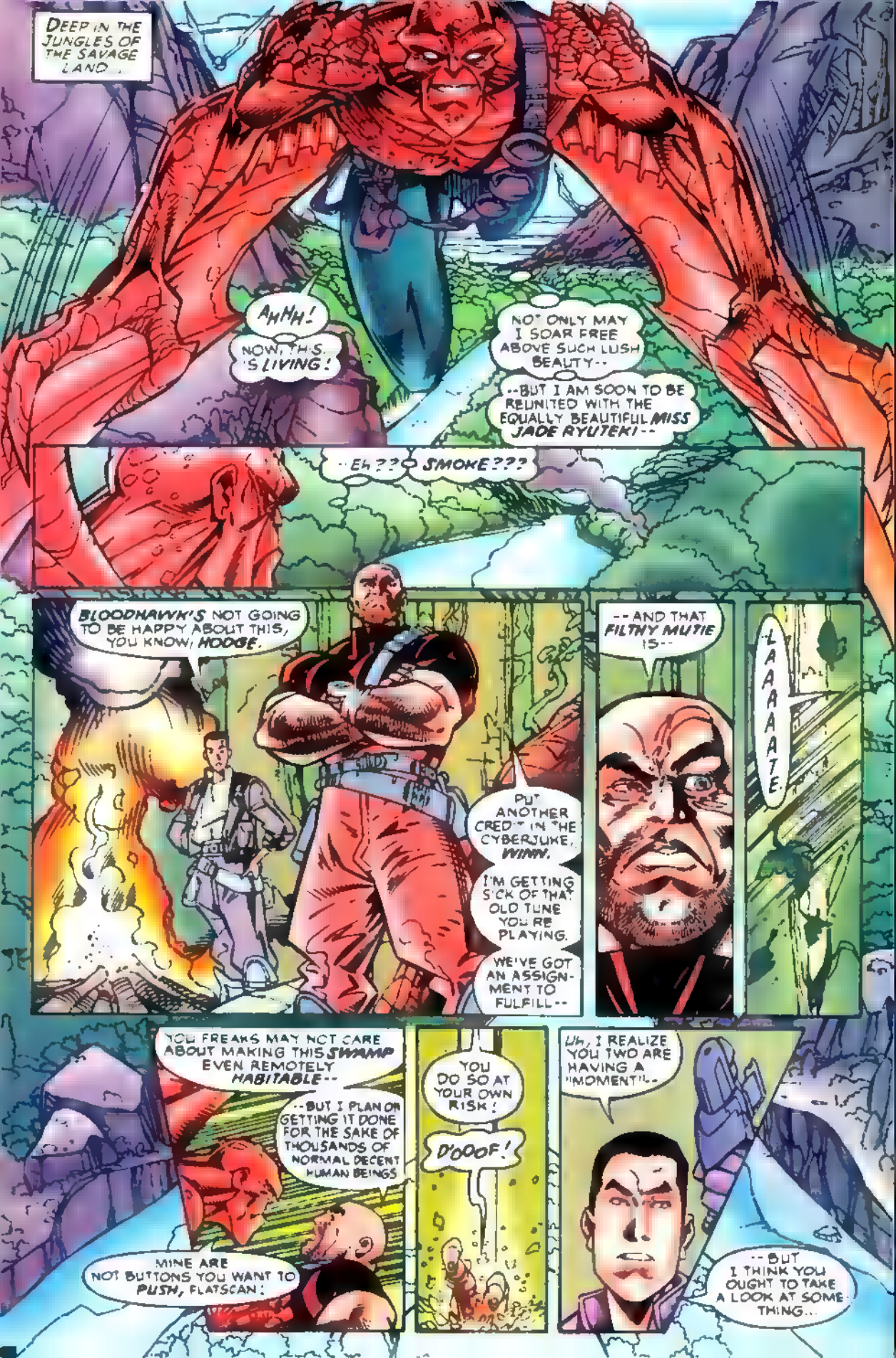
KEEP YOUR SPOO IN THE ARENA, DORIAN!
SORRY, WILD BOYZ--
--BUT YOU KNOW HOW MESSY I GET--
--COOKIN' FOR THE BOSS!
:HUFF: NICE AND SLOW :PUFF: COME ON--
SHHLLOOK
DON'T OVERDO THE MEAT, DORIAN!!
THE BIG BOSS AIN'T GONNA WANT HIM--HE'S SPOILED!
LOOKS FARM FRESH TO ME, SPUD.
HEH-HEH-HEH!
CAN WE TALK ABOUT THIS?
SKLITCHH
FLOOSH
GLORCHH

UGH! THIS IS SO GROSS! WHAT I WON'T DO FOR MY FANS--
SPLOTCH
:PUFF:
:WHEW:< ANTI-GRAV CYCLE! IF IT'LL ONLY GET ME AWAY FROM THESE MONSTERS IN TIME--
HEY, WILD BOY.. EVER HAVE A "ZIT"--
WHOOPWHOOP
--THAT COULD POP YOU?
THE ALARM?
IT'S THE MIST DWELLER! HE'S ESCAPED!
FSSKCHWISH
WE'LL HAVE TO FINISH THAT DANCE SOME OTHER TIME, [redacted] BOY!
DORIAN, IF HE GETS AWAY, THE BOSS--
CHILL, SHIV! THE BOSS WON'T EVEN MISS THE SQUIB!
BESIDES, WHERE'S HE GONNA GO, ANYWAY?

WELCOME TO THE SAVAGE LAND, FOLKS. HUMANITY'S LAST STOP ABOVE SEA LEVEL.
WATCH YER STEP, LOOK OUT FOR FALLIN' PTERODACTYLS, AND IF A SABERTOOTH TIGER TRIES TO TAKE YOUR LUGGAGE -- LET HIM!
EDDIE! THESE PEOPLE HAVE JUST FLED FOR THEIR LIVES! DO YOU THINK THIS IS THE TIME FOR JOKES?
YOUR ROBOT IS FUNNY.
HE'S A MAN, MA'AM.
SUCH A NICE METAL BOY.
ARE THERE REALLY SABER-TOOF TIGERS, MISTER?
NAH! NOT AS LONG AS THE X-MEN ARE IN THE HOUSE!
I'M EDDIE, THAT'S XI'AN. WHAT'S YOUR NAME, ANGEL--
MADELINE!
GET AWAY FROM THAT SHOCKIN' MUTIE. FREAK'LL KILL YOU SOON AS LOOK AT YOU!
IT'S A BRAVE NEW WORLD, POPS. HOW 'BOUT A LITTLE TOLERANCE--
OR DO I NEED TO LEARN YOU SOME TOLERANCE?
HEY, HEY! COOL IT, YOU HOT-HEADS! CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?
WOOOOOSH
THE HUMAN TORCH! NOW THERE'S A REAL HERO!
IF YOU EQUATE HEROICS WITH SHOW-BOATING--
SLUMMING, JOHNNY? I THOUGHT YOU SIGNED ON FOR THE TOWN MEETING?

ARE YOU KIDDING? I'LL TAKE THE POOR HUDDLED MASSES OVER THAT POLITICAL STUFF ANYDAY!
THIS IS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE!
I WILL NOT STAND FOR A GOVERNMENT, TEMPORARY OTHERWISE, RUN BY HUMANS--
--OR NEED I REMIND ANYONE ABOUT PRESIDENT DOOM?
AND HALO CITY WAS THE MODEL UTOPIA? NOT.
DON'T PUSH ME, FLATSCAN.
KRAKKKLLE
ENOUGH. PUT YOUR PETTY POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS ASIDE, MORPHINE, AND STOP THIS SENSELESS BICKERING--
--OR I'LL STOP IT FOR YOU.
RESORTING TO FORCE, CEREBRA? HOW QUAINT.
GENESCRAPE, WITCH.
REFUGEES FROM THE FLOOD ARE COMING IN BY THE SHIPLOAD!
SOMEONE HAS TO LEAD THEM UNTIL THEY CAN GOVERN THEMSELVES! WHAT ABOUT YOU, MIGUEL?
ALREADY DONE THE AUTHORITY THING, SUE--
HATED IT! I'M MUCH BETTER OFF PITCHING IN AS PLAIN OLD ORDINARY SPIDER-MAN!
BUT WITH YOUR CREDENTIALS--
CREDENTIALS?
WE'RE SQUATTING IN GRASS HUTS IN THE SAVAGE LAND! A COLLEGE DEGREE AND A KEY TO THE EXECUTIVE TOILET WON'T CUT IT HERE!
KZZLASH
CALL ME WHEN YOU'RE READY TO GET SERIOUS.
MORPHINE!
GREAT, WHERE AM I SUPPOSED TO PUT MY COFFEE?
WE'RE NOT GETTING ANYWHERE, WE NEED REED RICHARDS!

FROM A CRAMPED ROOM, REED RICHARDS SCRAMBLES TO SAVE A CIVILIZATION FROM EXTINCTION--
--DESIGNS FOR THE WATER FILTRATION SYSTEM COMPLETE--
REED, HON?
--GET THE GEOTHERMAL CONDUCTORS ON-LINE--
REED!
I'M PREOCCUPIED, SUSAN, NOT DEAF. IS IT TIME FOR THE MEETING?
THE MEETING FINISHED AN HOUR AGO.
OH.
NOTHING WAS DECIDED. THEY WANT YOU INPUT.
RIGHT-- SOON AS I COMPLETE A FEW HUNDRED OTHER PROJECTS.
DO ANY OF THOSE PROJECTS INVOLVE--
--GETTING US BACK TO OUR OWN TIME?
SUE, AN ENTIRE WORLD IS DEPENDING ON US RIGHT HERE! HOW CAN YOU THINK ABOUT HOME?
WHAT ABOUT FRANKLIN?
WHAT?
FRANKLIN... OUR SON!
OF COURSE, FRANKLIN. HE'LL--BLAST! I'M LOSING FIELD INTEGRITY!
THAT'S NOT ALL YOU'RE LOSING, REED


DEEP IN THE JUNGLES OF THE SAVAGE LAND...
AHHH!
NOW, THIS 'S LIVING!
NOT ONLY MAY I SOAR FREE ABOVE SUCH LUSH BEAUTY--
--BUT I AM SOON TO BE REUNITED WITH THE EQUALLY BEAUTIFUL MISS JADE RYUTEKI--
--EH??? SMOKE???
BLOODHAWK'S NOT GOING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT THIS, YOU KNOW, HODGE.
PUT ANOTHER CRED-T IN THE CYBERJUKE, WINNY.
I'M GETTING SICK OF THAT OLD TUNE YOU'RE PLAYING.
WE'VE GOT AN ASSIGN-MENT TO FULFILL--
--AND THAT FILTHY MUTIE IS--
LAAAAATE.
YOU FREAKS MAY NOT CARE ABOUT MAKING THIS SWAMP EVEN REMOTELY HABITABLE--
--BUT I PLAN ON GETTING IT DONE FOR THE SAKE OF THOUSANDS OF NORMAL DECENT HUMAN BEINGS
MINE ARE NOT BUTTONS YOU WANT TO PUSH, FLATSCAN!
YOU DO SO AT YOUR OWN RISK!
D'OOOF!
UH, I REALIZE YOU TWO ARE HAVING A "MOMENT"--
--BUT I THINK YOU OUGHT TO TAKE A LOOK AT SOME-THING...

WHAT THE SHOCK KIND OF MONSTER IS THAT?!?
GET OUT OF THE WAY, FREAK-- I'M GONNA KILL IT!
ROAWR!
NO, IMBECILE! THAT'S NO MONSTER--
--THAT'S THE LAST ME[illegible]R OF OUR HALF OF THE EXPEDITION TEAM!
WILLOW!
HIYA, FELLAS! SORRY I'M LATE.
JUST COULDN'T RESIST MORPHING AROUND--
WHAT'S IT WITH YOU PEOPLE?!
EX-CUSE ME--?
YOU SO-CALLED HOMO-SUPERIORS THINK YOU CAN COME AND GO AS YOU PLEASE BECAUSE YOU'RE BETTER THAN PLAIN OL' HOMO-SAPIENS--
--BUT YOU'RE NOT, SO MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL WHILE WE CONTACT THE OTHER SURVEY TEAM!
IGNORE HIM, LITTLE ONE.
COME, WE MUST PREPARE FOR THE OTHER TEAM'S ARRIVAL. I UNDERSTAND A FRIEND OF YOURS IS A MEMBER...
YEAH... GUESS I GET TO BREAK THE NEWS TO HIM I'M NOT DEAD--
--BUT HIS BEST FRIEND 'S.
LUCKY ME.

NOT FAR AWAY..
NOSTROMO-- THE TORTURED TECHNOPATH.
JADE RYUTEKI-- THE ENGINEERING WHIZ KID.
LA LUNATICA-- THE SAVAGE MUTANT POWERHOUSE
SHOCKIN' TREES!!! SHOCKIN' VINE, SHOCKIN' UNDER-BRUSH!!!
I ABSOLUTELY HATE THIS STUPID JUNGLE!
WHAT DO YOU SAY, NOS?
I-I THINK THE H-HEAT'S STARTING TO GET TO M-ME, T-TOO...
HERE, LET ME HELP YOU--
NO!!! THE TECHNO-ORGANIC VIRUS WILL INFECT YOU, TOO!!!
POOR GUY. CAN'T EVEN GET CLOSE TO ANYONE.
HE MUST BE SO LONELY.
KRIK KRIK KRIK
YOU GUYS HEAR WHAT I HEAR?
SOMETHING'S STALKING US... SOMETHING--

ROARR!
--BIG!!!
SAVE IT, KITTY CAT.
IT'S TIME FOR YOU T'GET "FIXED"--
--PERMANENTLY!!!
SKRIP
YEEEEEP!
Y-YOU K-KILLED IT?
YUP.
I TOLD YOU--I ABSOLUTELY HATE THIS STUPID JUNGLE.
JADE, OL' GIRL-- WHAT HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO?

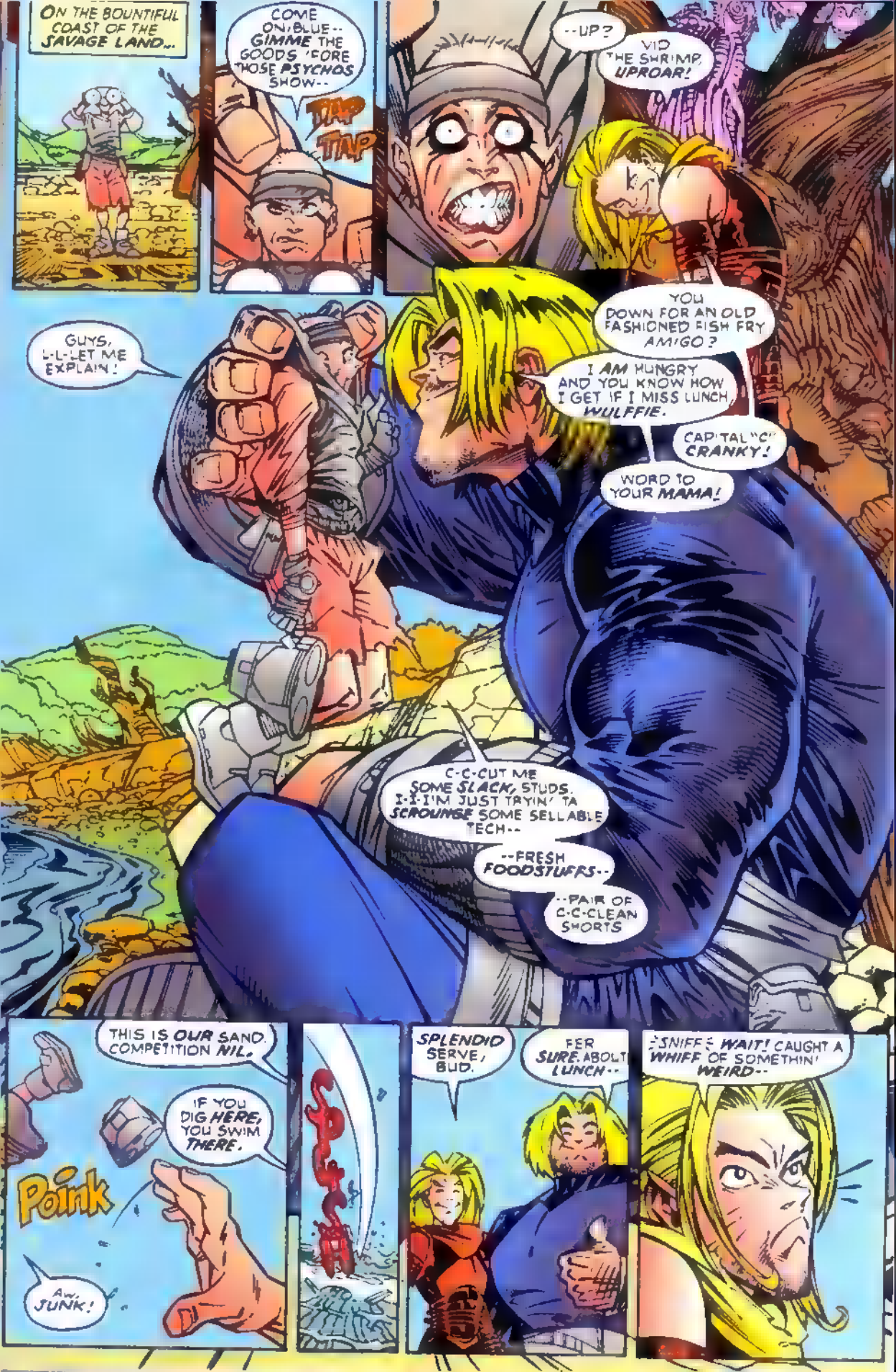
AT THE LAST REFUGE --
YOU'LL NEVER DIG DEEP ENOUGH WITHOUT A TACHYON DRILL!
WE DIDN'T HAUL OUR GUNNK BUTTS ACROSS THE OCEAN TO DIE OF THIRST!
IF READINGS SHOW SUCH WATER -- THEN I'M GONNA FIND IT!
WHOM WHAM
"WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE... Hmmm, EDDIE-KINS?
WHOA... I'M IN LOVE..
STEP ASIDE AN' LET MADEMOISELLE STRANGE WET YOUR WHISTLE
HOW CAN I RESIST?
STOP BREATHING?
FZPSCH TSCHOW
OOPSIE... WAS THAT OVER THE TOP?
NAW... ANYBODY GOT A REALLY LONG STRAW?

LATER, THE SASSY SORCERESS SUPREME MEDITATES IN A QUIET CORNER OF THE SAVAGE LAND..
I FORGET SOMETIMES JUST HOW MUCH POWER I HAVE COURSING THROUGH THIS LITTLE BOD'!
Ah, I'LL GET THE SWING OF IT EVENTUALLY..
SORCERESS!
HAVE YOU LOST COMPLETE HOLD OVER YOUR SENSES, GIRL?
DOCTOR STRANGE?!? LIKE THE WOODLAND CHIC. TRES GRANOLA.
DID YOU CONSIDER THAT YOUR BRAZEN DISPLAY OF ARCANE ENERGIES MIGHT BRING DIRE CONSEQUENCES?
WHAT'S THE SHOCKIN' GLITCH, GRANDPA? PEOPLE NEEDED WATER, I HELPED GET IT, [redacted] OF STORY!
YOUR IMPETUOUSNESS AWAKENED AN EVIL BEYOND COMPREHENSION--
I'M SHAKIN' IN MY STOCKINGS, DOC... REALLY.

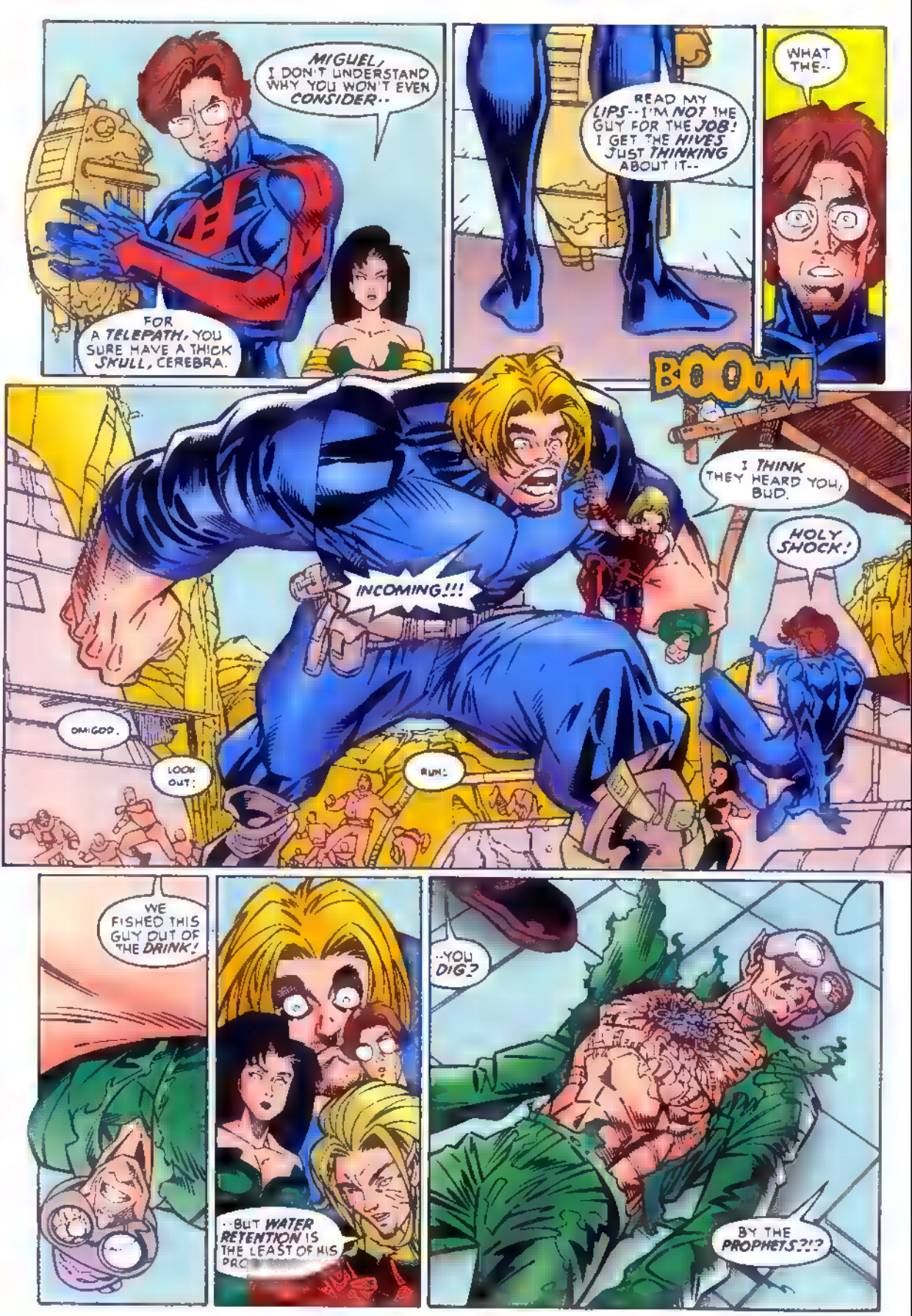
MARS.
CHK CHK CHK CHK
YAWWNNN!!
FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN ASLEEP FOR YEARS!
Hmmm. DOESN'T LOOK LIKE OUR LANDING WAS SUCH A SMOOTH ONE.
WITH ALL OUR INSTRUMENTS TRASHED LIKE THIS--
--THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING WHERE WE ARE IN RELATION TO THE COLONY.
SO, BASICALLY, WE'RE TRAPPED IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE ON AN ALIEN PLANET.
LORD GIVE ME THE STRENGTH...
Uhhh... ARE WE THERE YET, FATHER J? WHERE'S MR. GRIMM?
HE MUST HAVE GONE AHEAD TO FIND THE ARES SETTLERS, TWILIGHT--
AWOOOAWOO
Eh? THE STASIS ALARM?
OMIGOD! SOMEONE COME QUICK!!!
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH SMITH--
--HE'S NOT WAKING UP!!!

THE CHAMBER'S STARTING TO OVERHEAT! WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM OUT!
CHILL, TWI-- JUST USE YOUR "SPHERE OF INFLUENCE" TO GIVE HIM A LITTLE POST-STASIS WAKE-UP CALL.
I-I CAN'T. WHAT IF I FAIL HIM?
--JUST LIKE I FAILED SISTER NICK?!?*
* BACK IN X-NATION #5. --J.P. & M.P.
JUST STAY CALM, GIRLS. THERE'S A SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM--
--IT'S JUST A MATTER OF LOOKING IN THE RIGHT PLACE TO FIND IT...
HEL-LO!
I'D LAY ODDS THAT THIS LITTLE DEVICE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ELEVATED TEMPERATURE IN THE CHAMBER!
BUT HOW DID IT EVEN GET THERE? AND WHO DOES IT BELONG TO???
DON'T SWEAT IT, PADRE-- CLIMATE CONTROL'S MY GIG!
I'LL HAVE THAT TUBE BACK TO NORMAL IN NO TIME!
THOUGH DECEMBER'S MUTANT ABILITY ALLOWS HER TO CONTROL TERRESTRIAL TEMPERATURES--
--THIS, UNFORTUNATELY, IS NOT EARTH.
ARRGHH!!
TWILIGHT-- HELP MEEEE--
YOU'RE SMITH'S ONLY HOPE, TWI! IF YOU DON'T AT LEAST TRY TO SAVE HIM--
--BY USING YOUR POWER TO TURN BACK TIME IN THE CHAMBER--
--THEN HE'S AS GOOD AS DEAD!
WE'VE LOST SO MANY PEOPLE FROM OUR LIVES SO FAR, DECEMBER...

FIRST, SISTER NICK AND THE OTHER HOWLERS.
I'M NOT GONNA SHOCKIN' TAKE THIS ANYMORE, D: FROM NOW ON--
I REFUSE TO LOSE ANOTHER FRIEND!!!
S-SO, ARE W-WE AT A-ARES BASE YET?
THEN, CLARION...
POOR, SWEET CLARION
I'M AFRAID OUR JOURNEY HAS BARELY BEGUN.
REST UP FOR NOW, BUT COME WHATEVER PASSES FOR MORNING HERE--
--WE FOUR ARE GOING OUT INTO THE MARTIAN WILDERNESS TO FIND BEN.
"LORD ONLY KNOWS WHAT WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT THERE..."


ON THE BOUNTIFUL COAST OF THE SAVAGE LAND..
COME ON, BLUE-- GIMME THE GOODS 'FORE THOSE PSYCHOS SHOW--
TAP TAP
--UP?
VID THE SHRIMP, UPROAR!
GUYS, L-L-LET ME EXPLAIN!
YOU DOWN FOR AN OLD FASHIONED FISH FRY AMIGO?
I AM HUNGRY AND YOU KNOW HOW I GET IF I MISS LUNCH, WULFFIE.
CAPITAL "C" CRANKY!
WORD TO YOUR MAMA!
C-C-CUT ME SOME SLACK, STUDS. I-I-I'M JUST TRYIN' TA SCROUNGE SOME SELLABLE TECH--
--FRESH FOODSTUFFS--
--PAIR OF C-C-CLEAN SHORTS
THIS IS OUR SAND. COMPETITION NIL.
IF YOU DIG HERE, YOU SWIM THERE.
Poink
Aw, JUNK!
SPLENDID SERVE, BUD.
FER SURE. ABOUT LUNCH--
:SNIFF: WAIT! CAUGHT A WHIFF OF SOMETHIN' WEIRD--

YOU'RE JUST GETTIN' SPOOKED. PROBABLY JUST ANOTHER FLOATER, WULFF--
NO--
--DEAD BODIES SMELL LIKE ROAST BEEF AND TARTAR SAUCE--
--THE LIVING ONES SMELL LIKE--
--HIM.
MIST... IN THE MIST... CREATURES IN... FATHER'S HOUSE...
NOT... NOT... HUMAN...
MUST WARN... RICHARDS...
WE'VE GOT TO GET THIS DUDE TO THE TOWN HALL FOR SOME SERIOUS MEDS.
SLOW UP, CHIEF. THERE'S ANOTHER SCENT CLINGIN' TO THE OLDIE--
LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK BEFORE--
HOLY SHOCKIN' SHOCK!!


MIGUEL, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WON'T EVEN CONSIDER--
FOR A TELEPATH, YOU SURE HAVE A THICK SKULL, CEREBRA.
READ MY LIPS--I'M NOT THE GUY FOR THE JOB! I GET THE HIVES JUST THINKING ABOUT IT--
WHAT THE--
BOOOM
I THINK THEY HEARD YOU, BUD.
HOLY SHOCK!
INCOMING!!!
OMIGOD.
LOOK OUT!
RUN!
WE FISHED THIS GUY OUT OF THE DRINK!
--BUT WATER RETENTION IS THE LEAST OF HIS PRO
--YOU DIG?
BY THE PROPHETS?!?

I CAN EASE HIS PAIN TELEPATHICALLY--
BUT NOT FOR LONG. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
EXPERIMENT... FAILED...
...INFECTED...
...TRIED TO ESCAPE... BUT THE WILD BOYS...
HIS SYSTEM IS TEEMING WITH TECHNO-ORGANIC PARASITES!
DID HE SAY WILD BOYS?
WHOA! ACCORDING TO THESE READINGS--
--THEY CAME FROM THE PLANETOID!!!!
LISTEN TO ME! TELL RICHARDS... FIND THE CITY IN THE MIST...
MUST STOP HIM... STOP THEM ALL... OR HUMANITY WILL BE...
--CONSUMED...
...
SWIFT JOURNEY TO THE OTHER SIDE, FRIEND.
TELL REED NOT TO WAIT UP--
SPIDER-MAN HAS GONE TO FIND THE CITY IN THE MIST--
--AND ITS CONNECTION TO THE PLANETOID!
WE'RE THERE, DUDE.

WHAT'CHA DOIN', MR WINN?
JUST NOTIC'N' THE EXCESSIVE AMOUNT OF NEUTRINO PARTICLES IN THE SOIL, WILLOW.
WHAT'S UP, KIDDO?
Ummm... YOU DON'T HATE ME BECAUSE I'M A MUTANT--
--DO YOU?
OF COURSE NOT! I FIND MUTANTS FASCINATING--
--ESPECIALLY ONES AS CUTE AS YOU!
COOL!!!
HE LIKES ME... HE LIKES ME... HE LIKES ME...
MAYBE IF MR HODGE LISTENS TO MR. WINN--
--HE'LL LEARN TO LIKE MUTANTS, TOO!
HEY, MR HODGE-- YOU DON'T NEED GUNS!
NOT WITH ME AND BLOODHAWK AROUND ANYWAY.
SAYS YOU.
YOU'RE A CHANGELING--
--YOU CAN ASSUME ANY SHAPE OR FORM YOU WANT. SO TELL ME--
--WHY SHOULD I TRUST YOU?

ABOVE...
IF I MUST ENDURE ANOTHER MINUTE WITH THAT DOLT, HODGE--
--I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO RESIST GUTTING HIM--Eh?
A-ha! THERE'S THE OTHER TEAM NOW!
AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, THERE SHE IS--
-- THE REASON WHY I VOLUNTEERED TO WORK WITH THE FLATSCANS--
BOOSH!
YO YO YO, BLOODHAWK! WASSUP, WINGS?
--MISS JADE RYUTEK!!!!
HMNN...
SO, THE MUTIE'S GOT A SOFT SPOT FOR A HUMAN, Eh?
HMNN...

HELLO THERE, MY INTERESTING LITTLE FRIEND.
NICE TECHNO-ORGANICS...
UHH, YEAH--THANKS.
HEY, AREN'T THERE SUPPOSED TO BE FOUR PEOPLE ON YOUR TEAM?
THERE ARE.
HI, NOS
I DON'T SHOCHIN' BELIEVE THIS--
--WILLOW!!! YOU'RE ALIVE!
WAITAMINUTE... IF YOU SURVIVED--
--THEN THE REST OF X-NATION MUST'VE, TOO!
UM... WELL NOT EXACTLY
ONE OF US DIDN'T MAKE IT.
CLARION? YOU MEAN HE'S--?
BUT HE WAS MY BEST FRIEND.
I KNOW, NOS--
--WE'RE ALL GONNA MISS HIM...

THE WELL AT LAST REFUGE...
LAST I CHECKED, THE PLUMBING WAS [redacted] GIG
WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT A CLOGGED DRAIN HERE, SISTER--
--THIS DEFINITELY FALLS UNDER THE CATEGORY OF STRANGE AND UNNATURAL HAPPENINGS!
BLOOD! NOT A GOOD SIGN...
SHOCKIN' SOCKS OF THE SERAPHIM! THE WATER!
NOT WATER ANYMORE! ONE OF THE GUYS FELL IN, SAYS IT TASTES LIKE IT LOOKS--
LOOK ALIVE, PAL. I'M CLOCKING SOME SERIOUS MAGIC IN THIS PIT...
MAYBE DOC WASN'T OVERREACTING-- I DO SENSE A PRESENCE--
FZCHOW
--AND IT AIN'T IN MY FAN CLUB!
RMMMBLE

KA-RA-KA-H
AAHHH!
HANG ON! I'LL BE THERE IN A--
..SEC? OH, BOY..
THIS IS BAD..
--VERRRY BAD!!
GET OUT OF THERE, STRANGE!
NO!

EARTHQUAKE!
I'D HATE TO SEE THE FRIES THAT GO WITH THIS SHAKE!!! YOU OKAY, KRIS?
WE'RE SAFE UNDER MY INVISIBLE FORCE SHIELD. REED, BUT--
SUSAN, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE PROTECT THE WORK IN THE LAB! SHIELD THE COMPUTERS!
MY CRYSTAL LEVEE IS HOLDING, BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND! THE SAVAGE LAND IS TECTONICALLY STABLE!
COMPUTERS? REED, WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE OUTSIDE?
UNGH! QUAKE ISN'T NATURAL... I SENSE AN ENTITY... OLD... ANGRY!
FWOOM
PSYCHIC BACKLASH... TOO STRONG... LOSING CONTROL-- OH!
THE SURGEON GENERAL SAYS THAT SWOONING DURING AN EARTHQUAKE MAY [redacted] HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH, CEREBRA--

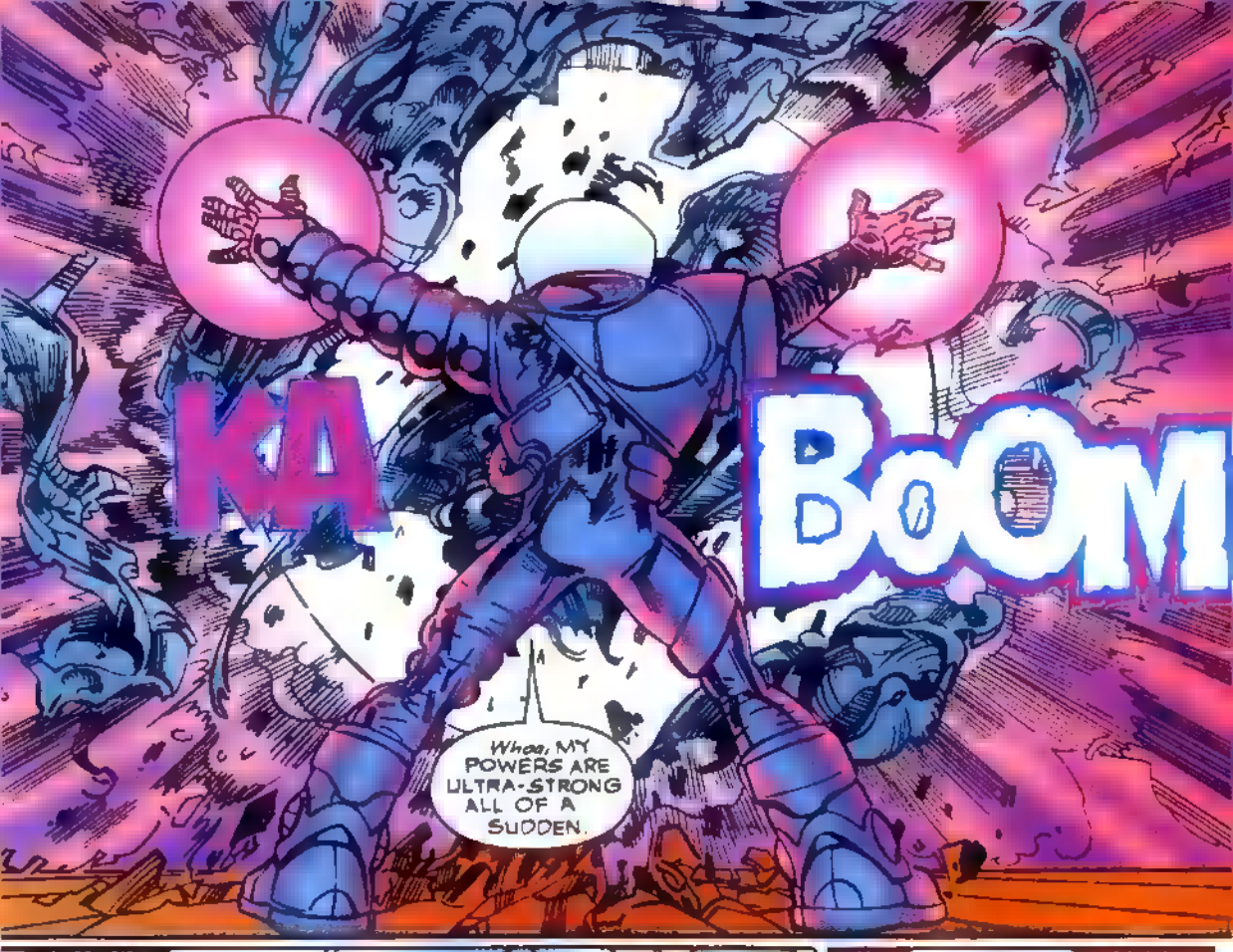
MY FAMILY IS TRAPPED--I CAN'T REACH THEM!!
I CAN FREE THEM! I JUST NEED TO TOUCH THE DEBRIS AND IT WILL CRUMBLE--
WE HUMANS TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN, GENETRASH!
UNHAND ME, WRETCH!
OR SHOULD I LEAVE THEM JUST TO SEE IF YOU'RE RIGHT?
HOLD ON TO THAT RAGE, KILLER--
'LEAST TILL I SHOW YOU WHAT TO DO WITH IT!
THOUGHT WE LOST YOU THERE FOR A MINUTE, BEAUTIFUL--
WHATEVER CAUSED THE QUAKE HAD A PSYCHIC SIGNATURE SO STRONG THAT IT PRACTICALLY SHUT DOWN MY NERVOUS SYSTEM!
THE PAIN HAS PASSED, BUT THE SHOCK WAVES MUST BE TEARING THE SAVAGE LAND APART!

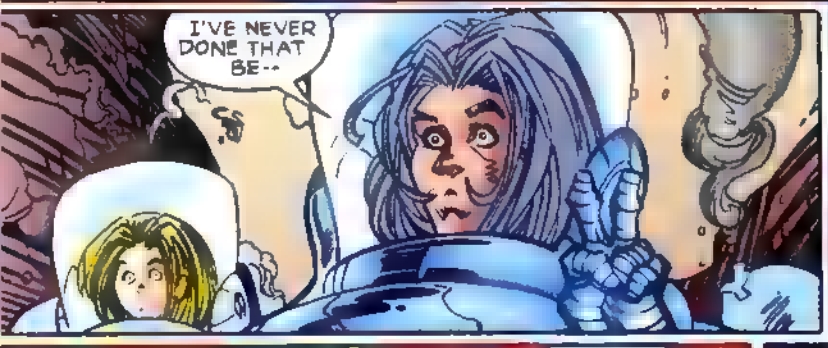
AND AS THE AFTERSHOCKS PASS...
SO, WINN-- WHAT KINDS OF SEISMIC READINGS DID YOU GET FROM THAT--
--AND CAN WE EXPECT MORE ANYTIME SOON?
I DON'T THINK THIS HARDWARE CAN TAKE ANOTHER BEATING.
BE SHOCKED IF I CAN TELL--
--ALL MY SCANNERS ARE TOTALLY FRITZED!
IT'LL TAKE DAYS--AND MORE PARTS--THAN WE'VE GOT TO FIX THIS.
HEY, NOSTROMO--A TECHNO-PATHIC WHAMMY MIGHT JUST GET THIS MAINFRAME BACK ON-LINE--
CARE TO GIVE IT A SHOT?
I-I'M NOT SURE
EVERY TIME I USE MY POWERS--
--THE TECHNO-VIRUS CONSUMES MORE OF MY BODY.
TECHNO-VIRUS, EH?
WELL, HERE GOES NOTHIN'.

HEY! IT'S WORKING!
SEE? I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT!
WAIT.. SOMETHING'S WRONG!
LET GO, NOS--LET GO!!!
I CAAANN'TT!
AAAARRGH!!
HANG ON, KID--I'VE GOT YOU!
IN-CREDIBLE!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS!
DON'T TOUCH IT, WINN--
YOU'LL BE CONTAMINATED!!
THAT TEARS IT, YOU FILTHY MUTIE--
--YOU'RE HISTORY!
HUH?!?
KRAK

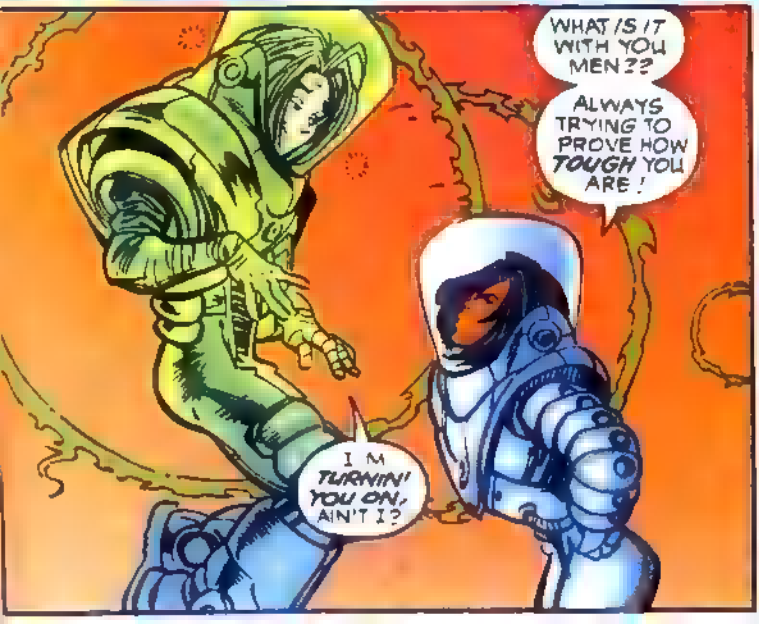
HEEEYYY!
THE GROUND'S COLLAPSIN'!!
AND AS HODGE TUMBLES INTO THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH....
REGARDLESS OF HOW MUCH I DESPISE HIM ALREADY--
--I CANNOT SIT BY IDLY AND LET HODGE--
--HOWEVER ODIOUS HE MAY BE--
--PLUMMET TO HIS DEATH SO HUMILIATINGLY.
AH, THE BURDENS OF A CONSCIENCE...
YOU CAN RELAX NOW, MAN--
--YOU'RE SAFE.
OH, YEAH?
IF THIS THING IS WHAT I THINK IT IS--
--NO ONE ON THIS PLANET'S GONNA [redacted] SAFE EVER AGAIN!

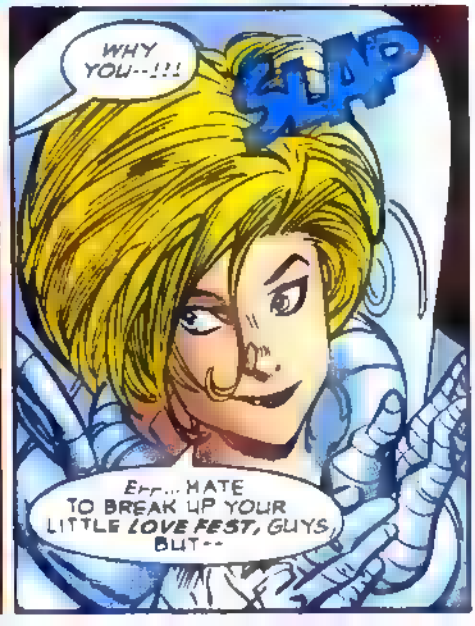
MARS...
NOW THIS--
--IS WEIRD!
AREN'T THOSE--?
YES, DECEMBER-- THEY'RE EMPTY GRAVES.
IT'S AS IF THE SETTLERS WERE WAITING TO DIE...
CHA-CHIK WHIRR
SEEMS TIME THEY WERE WAITING FOR SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY, PADRE.
ZAP
ONE ICE SHIELD COMING RIGHT--
BOOM
BOOM
--HEY! WHAT HAPPENED TO MY POWERS??
THEY'RE NOT WORKING! GET OUTTA THERE, SMITH!
YOU'RE STILL TOO SICK--TOO WEAK!
PUH-LEASE...
THOSE LASER CANNONS ARE METAL--
--AND SINCE I'M THE METALLICS MASTER--
--THAT MEANS I CAN CONTROL 'EM!!!

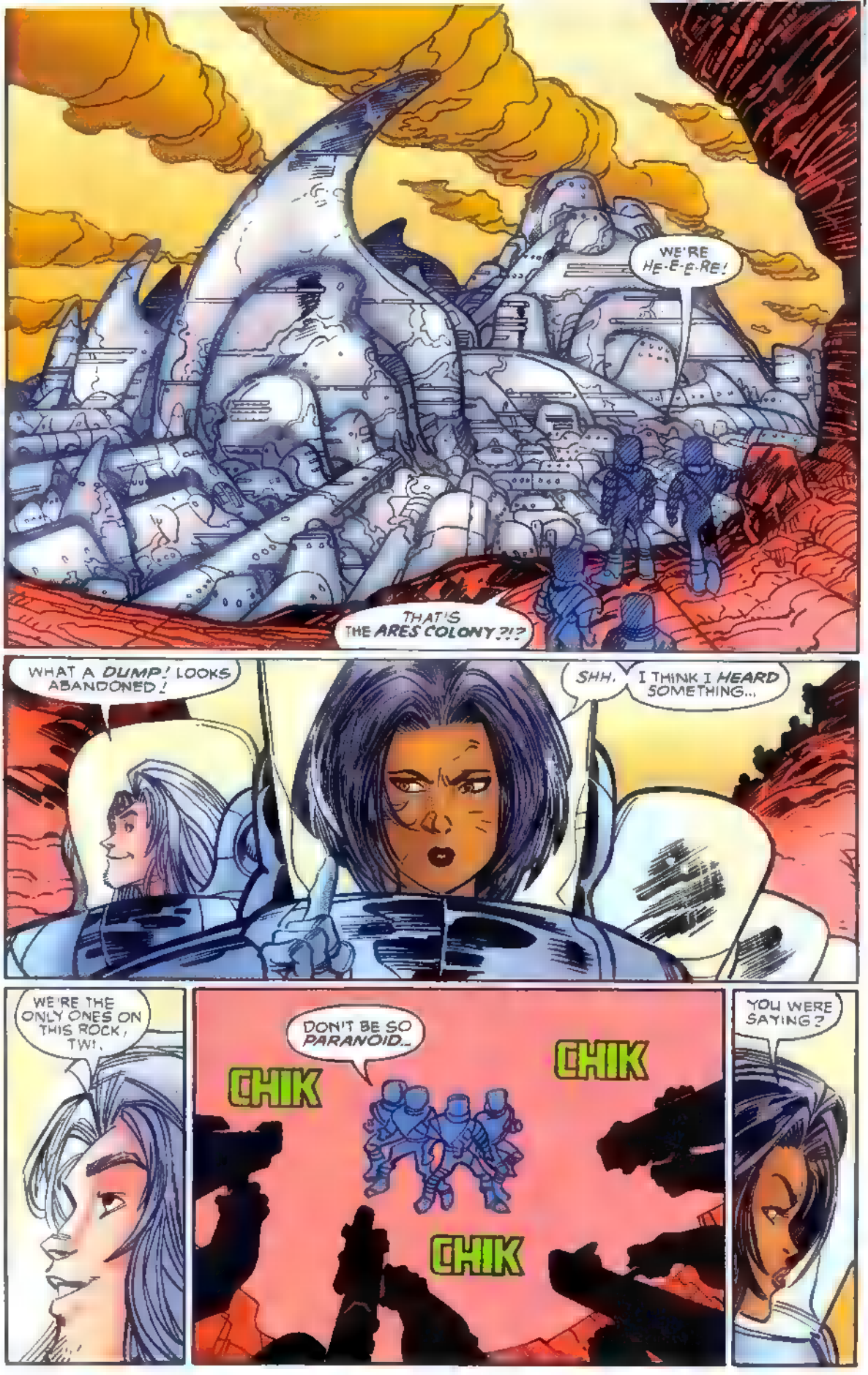

KA
BOOM
Whoa, MY POWERS ARE ULTRA-STRONG ALL OF A SUDDEN.


I'VE NEVER DONE THAT BE--

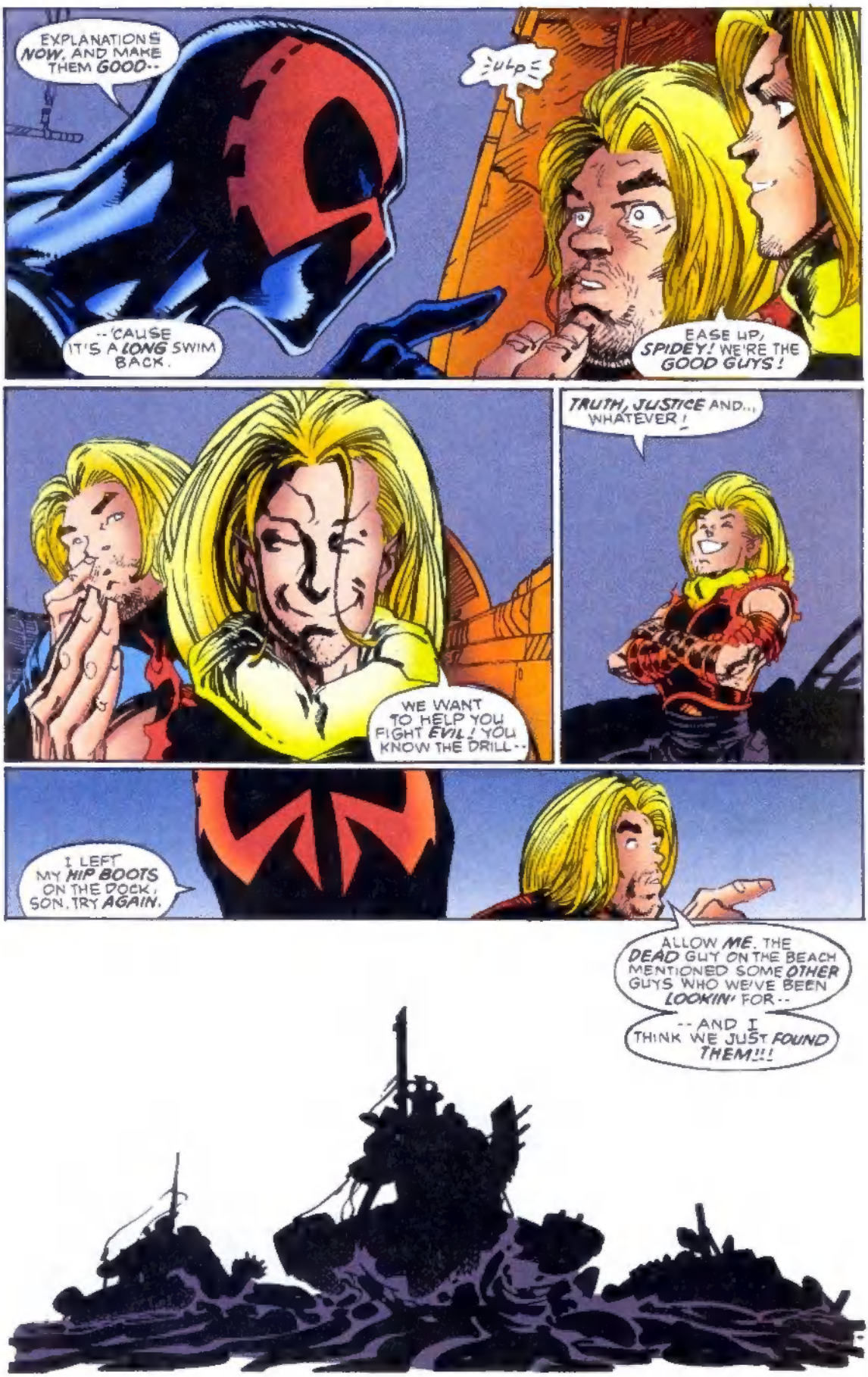
--FOOOORE... Uhnhnhh!


WHAT IS IT WITH YOU MEN??
ALWAYS TRYING TO PROVE HOW TOUGH YOU ARE!
I M TURNIN' YOU ON, AIN'T I?


WHY YOU--!!!
SLUP
Err... HATE TO BREAK UP YOUR LITTLE LOVE FEST, GUYS, BUT--


WE'RE HE-E-E-RE!
THAT'S THE ARES COLONY?!?
WHAT A DUMP! LOOKS ABANDONED!
SHH.
I THINK I HEARD SOMETHING...
WE'RE THE ONLY ONES ON THIS ROCK, TWI.
DON'T BE SO PARANOID..
CHIK
CHIK
CHIK
YOU WERE SAYING?

EARTH. JUST NORTH OF THE NOW SUBMERGED ISLAND OF SICILY.
ASSUMING THAT THE COMPUTER SIMS I WHIPPED UP ARE ON TARGET--
--I SHOULD BE CLOSING IN ON THE SOURCE OF THAT T.O. GOOP ANY SECOND NOW.
'COURSE, IF THE CHARTS ARE WRONG, I'LL BE AT SEA FOREVER--
QUIT SHOVING, UPCHUCK!
--DEHYDRATING SLOWLY--
--TILL I DIE A HIDEOUS DEATH.
VERRRRRY GOOD--
OH, NO-- NOT NOW--
IF YOU DIDN'T ERUPT EVERY TIME YOU HAD A NIGHTMARE, MAYBE I COULD SCORE SOME Z'S!
I WASN'T HAVING A NIGHTMARE, DOGGIE-DWEEB! I WAS DREAMING ABOUT YOUR--
--MOTHER?
UH... AHOY THERE, CAPTAIN S-GUY!
HEH-HEH... LIKE, BATTEN DOWN THE MIZZENMAST?


EXPLANATIONS NOW, AND MAKE THEM GOOD--
--'CAUSE IT'S A LONG SWIM BACK.
GULP
EASE UP, SPIDEY! WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS!
WE WANT TO HELP YOU FIGHT EVIL! YOU KNOW THE DRILL--
TRUTH, JUSTICE AND... WHATEVER!
I LEFT MY HIP BOOTS ON THE DOCK, SON. TRY AGAIN.
ALLOW ME. THE DEAD GUY ON THE BEACH MENTIONED SOME OTHER GUYS WHO WE'VE BEEN LOOKIN' FOR--
--AND I THINK WE JUST FOUND THEM!!!

OH... THIS IS TOO GOOD.
LAY IT ON ME, KILLER.
GUESS WHO'S STANDING SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF GROUND ZERO.
CHARLIE THE SHOCKIN' TUNA?
BETTER. ♪ OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS OUR LITTLE DOG GONE? ♪
WULFFIE. NICE.
BRACKLE
YOU'LL HAVE TO TELL ME ALL ABOUT YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS IF WE GET OUT OF THIS.
A WHOLE FLEET OF WILD CHUMPS COULDN'T FADE US, S-MAN! DIG IT!
WHAT ABOUT A FLEET OF CHUMPS WITH AN ION CANNON..!

BLAM!
OH, SHOCK! FIRE IN THE HOLE!!!
THE REST IS COLD--
--DANK--
--SILENCE.
TO BE CONTINUED.
NEXT ISSUE:
ALIEN DISCOVERY IN THE SAVAGE LAND! A Kid On MARS gets SNATCHED in the SAND! STRANGE DAYS AFOOT IN THE BOWELS OF EARTH! REED RICHARDS RACING AGAINST TIME to SAVE CIVILIZATION! SPIDER-MAN R.I.P.!
PLUS THE IGNOBLE FATE OF HALLOWEEN JACK!
DO NOT MISS THE NEXT INSTALLMENT OF 2099: THE WORLD OF TOMORROW!